

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY**

**7:00 P.M.**

**DECEMBER 5, 2012**

This Regular Meeting of Council was called to order on the above-stated date at the above-stated time after the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence by President of Council Darryl Segina with the following Members of Council present:

**RC-1      PRESENT:      DALE McCALL, ALFRED TEDESCO, JR., DANIEL CARR, DARRYL SEGINA, KEITH SOLES, FAWN WALKER-MONTGOMERY, RICHARD DELLAPENNA**

Mr. Segina said also present were Mayor Michael Cherepko, City Administrator Matthew Gergely, City Solicitor J. Jason Elash and members of the Administration. He said the Sergeant-at-Arms this evening is Detective Joe Osinski.

Mr. Segina said tonight they have Reverend Knopp to lead the prayer. He said this will be the final time he will be appearing before them because he is retiring. He said he hopes that it is not his last time and he is always welcome back here. He said Reverend Knopp has done a fine job civically in this town as well as spiritually. He said they wish him the best in his retirement.

Reverend Knopp said if he might have a moment of personal privilege. He said it may not be the last time. He said he was just thinking about that and he is going to continue to volunteer time in the City and will continue to serve on the McKeesport Ministerium and will therefore be around.

Mr. Segina said he is glad Reverend Knopp will be sticking around.

Reverend Darrell Knopp of the McKeesport Presbyterian Church led the prayer.

Mr. Segina said would the Mayor please take over.

Mayor Cherepko said thank you Mr. President. He said he would like to do this publicly for the first time and they would like to announce the retirement of Darrell Knopp, Pastor of McKeesport Presbyterian Church. He said Pastor Knopp has been so unbelievably instrumental in so many things they do throughout the community. He said he was very grateful to have him on board when he was a new Mayor coming in. He said the Reverend has really been there for him. He said a lot of the things he does are amazing. He said once again it is about having such special people in this community that go above and beyond their duties to make McKeesport a better place to live. He said and they want no recognition for it. He said he is extremely excited to know that Reverend Knopp is going to be around and will stay involved. He said he does have a Proclamation to present on behalf of City Council and himself.

Mayor Cherepko read the Proclamation:

*Proclamation – Reverend Darrell Knopp Retirement*

*Whereas, Reverend Darrell Knopp has served in the ministry for almost 37 years and at McKeesport Presbyterian Church for the past 13 years giving guidance and spiritual inspiration to his congregation earning the respect and admiration of all our citizens by his wholehearted and dedicated participation in many church and civic projects, including the Library District's Concerned Citizens, the Mayor's Select Committee on Crime and Violence and Ventures in People; and*

*Whereas, he has given generously of his time and effort by supporting the good work and fruits,*

*such as the HeadStart Program, Narcotics Anonymous, A Second Chance, and Valley Voices, along with other groups that meet at the church and benefit people of all ages and walks of life; and*

*Whereas, with the love and encouragement of his wife, Gloria, and sons, Nathan and Andrew, he has been a powerful influence for the good in our community and has earned and justly deserved the public recognition for his many years of service to our community.*

*Now, therefore, as Mayor of the City of McKeesport, I do hereby deem it an honor and a privilege, to recognize Reverend Darrell Knopp, extend the appreciation of our citizens for his many years of work in our community, and wish him and his family many more happy and productive years in the future.*

*In witness hereof, I hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City to be affixed this Fifth day of December of the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twelve.*

Mr. Segina said besides that, Reverend Knopp has a wonderful first name.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION:**      **Mr. Carr moved, seconded by Mr. Tedesco, "To approve the minutes for the Public Hearing of November 6, 2012 and the Regular Meeting of Council on November 7, 2012."**

NAYS: NONE..... 0

- Received an invitation to the Allegheny League of Municipalities to attend the ALOM Bi-Annual Legislative Reception. Ms. Williams said anyone who wants to go should let her know.
- Received an invitation to the Twin Rivers Council of Governments to attend their December Dinner Meeting. Ms. Williams said some of them have already given her their names, but if anyone else wants to go, let her know.
- Received the Fire Report from the McKeesport Fire Department Fire Chief Kevin Lust.
- Received the monthly report from the City's Police Department from Bryan J. Washowich, Chief of Police.
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## MAYOR'S REPORT:

- 4 -

does extend beyond the borders of McKeesport. He said one of their neighboring communities, Clairton, and their Clairton Bear Football team and what they have done is unbelievable. He said he remembers back when he played in McKeesport and they won a State Championship and how the community came together then. He said it really does a lot. He said he, on behalf of the City of McKeesport, wants to wish Coach Tom Nola, who is an absolutely first-class individual, and the Clairton Bear football team, the best of luck at their State Playoffs.

- Mayor Cherepko said the only thing he is going to do tonight ... and he is going to go through it and do it as quickly as he possibly can ... is to read through the Budget Message. He said he spent a lot of time on this message. He said they tried to hit a lot of the key points over the last year and some of the things that they are going to deal with this upcoming year and even into the future. He said a lot have not gotten this although Council has. He said he will try to go as quickly as possible through it since he knows they have a lot to do tonight. He said before he starts that, he does want to thank Council for their support throughout this year. He said they have had their differences but at the end of the day they have come a long way. He said what he sees is a Council that is working with the interest of the City at heart. He said from the beginning that it was okay if they wanted to take different paths to get to a goal as long as at the end of the day, their goals are in the interest of the City. He said he wants to thank them for what they have done in his first year in office.

- Mayor Cherepko read the Budget Message as follows:

*The 2013 Budget of \$17,987,122.85 reflects the best estimate of revenues and expenditures, isolating as many variables as possible that can be quantified within the budgeting process. This is almost exactly the same as the amount presented for 2012, in spite of the dramatic cost increases I have highlighted herein.*

*Fiscal Year 2013 will be the second year of my Administration and the first budget I have presented. A cornerstone of my Administration's budget in 2013 will continue with no increase in property taxes. I feel this is vital to help our many residents on fixed incomes during these trying economic times. Although we expect our real estate tax revenue to remain somewhat static, the large number of pending appeals that are currently filed with Allegheny County make this total difficult to anticipate. Tax billings will be mailed by February 15<sup>th</sup> and due again by April 15<sup>th</sup> at discount; June 15 at face; and with penalty thereafter. My administration will rededicate employees whose job functions have been reduced due to the implementation of the Tax Claim Bureau to our collection efforts on real estate taxes and other fees and assessments collected "in house." A review of our efforts in 2012 reflects a dramatic increase in these efforts and we hope to continue that trend in 2013. These efforts are required in order to hold the line on taxes as our costs for health insurance, our minimum municipal obligations required to be paid to our pension funds and other costs such as fuel and utilities continue to increase.*

*The Municipal Service Fee (MSF) will remain the same as the City continues to enjoy dramatic savings in our garbage collection fees over the trends established years ago. In addition, our recycling will be taken over by our current garbage hauler and the City has entered into a tentative agreement to establish a recycling collection hub within the City with Greenstar Recycling. This will allow our surrounding communities to haul their recycling here for collection and result in a payment to the City for every ton collected. The current employees assigned to recycling will be absorbed into the undermanned Public Works Department with no additional cost to the City, and the new stream of revenue created by the recycling hub*

*will help to offset our ever increasing costs noted above. Lastly, we will embark on a renewed commitment to increase recycling in our City, not only to help preserve the environment for generations to come, but also to decrease the tonnage collected and hauled to the landfill to help further reduce the cost of garbage collection.*

*The new budget reflects the salary increases for all of the five union collective bargaining agreements, as well as their corresponding fringe benefits. This year's increases of insurance premiums together with an increase in our minimum pension obligations of more than \$600,000 have challenged our ability to balance a budget without significant tax increases, let alone no increases at all. More onerous than these two costs, however, is the spiraling cost of medical benefits. Without a reconfiguration of plan coverage and the implementation of best practices, it will be impossible to sustain a number of employees currently reflected in the budget. This problem is not unique to the City, but in all likelihood will need to be addressed by us before any federal or state insurance assistance becomes available. The cost of medical coverage/benefits in 2013 represents nearly 15% of the entire City budget. While there is no way to contain these costs at the present time due to collective bargaining obligations, this must be addressed in the next contracts for all bargaining units to preserve financial stability in the future.*

*The following highlights reflect some of the accomplishments for the previous fiscal year(s):*

**1) RECREATION**

*a) Renziehausen Park: Funding for 2012 and 2013 continued with upgrades for the Walking Trail, upgrades to the restrooms and concession stand,*

*lighting at the new Sulfur Springs ball fields, continuation of the program to inventory, maintain, and add to the existing trees, additional walking trail maintenance, upgrades to the lighting at various fields within the Park, and continued maintenance of the pavilions throughout the Park. City Administrator Matt Gergely and Recreation Director Jim Brown also secured an additional \$40,000.00 from the RAD Board for capital projects within the Park, thus increasing the capital budget awarded to the City from \$59,000 to \$100,000. The City also continued with a revitalized and reorganized International Village celebration and marked the return of the McKeesport Rib Cook-Off. One of the first actions I undertook upon taking office was to revitalize the City's Recreation Board with active and invested members of the community who have exceeded all expectations. They worked in conjunction with the Lions Club to bring us the best Summer Concert Series the City has seen in years. The City's customary events such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Fishing Derby, Carnival and Halloween Parade have been second to none. I am excited to see the progress the board makes in the coming years to make these events bigger and better each and every year. The exhaustive efforts of the Recreation board exemplify what the phrase "Working Together for a Better McKeesport" truly means.*

*b) Rails to Trails: Funding in excess of \$100,000.00 was received to realign and upgrade the Bike Trail from the Riverton Bridge through RIDC Park and down to the McKee's Point Marina. These upgrades were desperately needed to realign the Trail so that it no longer runs down Lysle Boulevard with its high rate of motor vehicle traffic. The Trail has been and will continue to be one of the most vital catalysts in making McKeesport once again, one of the region's prime destinations.*



c) McKee's Point Marina: Our Marina has been at full capacity for more than five years and currently maintains a waiting list of potential boaters. In conjunction with the development of the Trail and the Palisades Complex, the Marina has become one of the biggest jewels along the Youghiogheny River and will be vital in our continuing efforts to revitalize our City. In the coming year, I am working diligently to reorganize and revamp the structure of the Marina and Palisades Boards to provide a more suitable environment for continued growth and development.

d) Palisades at McKee's Point: We received a grant in the amount of \$35,000 for a new marquee to aid in marketing the Palisades and the events occurring there. In addition, we received \$184,000 in grant funds to upgrade the facilities within the Palisades itself. I look forward to upgrading these facilities even further to expand the number and variety of events it can house. Again, this facility, in conjunction with the Trail and the Marina, is once again making our great City a prime place to visit for all our surrounding communities.

## **2) PUBLIC SAFETY**

a) EMS Service: The City of McKeesport has been blessed with a partnership created with McKeesport Area Rescue Service (MARS). These professionally trained men and women provide our citizens with first class service and exceptional response time. Additionally, under the leadership of Bill Miller, the City Emergency Management Coordinator, the City sponsors training and testing as mandated by the Federal Emergency Management Assistance (FEMA) program. Finally, as needed, MARS also collaborates with our Fire and Police Departments, as well as River Rescue at the

*McKee's Point Marina to provide basic training to City employees.*

*We are pleased that the efforts of MARS have been recognized by our surrounding communities and their services have now been extended to the City of Duquesne. We look forward to serving the residents of Duquesne, and MARS will continue to be prepared to service other areas if called upon.*

*b) Fire: The City purchased new state-of-the-art turnout gear for all Firemen in 2012. Under the leadership of Chief Lust, new equipment was added to the inventory of pro-active services provided by these dedicated servants. The Department also continues to work collaboratively in mutual aid with the communities surrounding McKeesport. Our paid Fire Department and their high levels of constant training are a luxury that few communities in the Commonwealth continue to enjoy, and we should all feel much safer as a result.*

*c) Police: Under the direction of Chief Bryan Washowich, the City of McKeesport continued its "community policing" in Dravosburg for 2012-2013. This cooperative effort has been successful for both communities. The City expects to continue the agreement in the future, as well as expand the concept to other adjoining communities as requested.*

*Collaborative law enforcement endeavors were also sustained in the McKeesport Area School District. A joint venture that placed three officers in McKeesport High School in 2008 is budgeted to continue in 2013 in a program entitled "School Resource Officer" by both the School District and the City.*

*In addition, we are currently negotiating with UPMC McKeesport to provide armed police officers at their campus 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. This is*

*another opportunity to provide our Police services to the community while generating new revenue to support our continued efforts.*

*As I have stated previously, part of the foundation to creating a better McKeesport is solid law enforcement to protect our residents and businesses. Through collaborative efforts with the office of District Attorney Stephen Zappala, the City has been working tirelessly to create a greater Police presence with our limited resources to aid in curbing the addiction to crime and violence one block and one house at a time. Through the DANET program, the City has made in excess of 300 arrests since the beginning of the year.*

*As promised in my campaign, I have formed the Mayor's Select Committee on Crime and Violence. It is comprised of not only members of my Administration and Public Safety professionals, but also the leaders of the Ministerium, Neighborhood Task Forces, the NAACP, as well as several other vital community leaders. The committee is designed to focus all of the resources in our City at curbing the problem of crime and violence at its source, the youth of our City. We are striving to provide our youth with as many positive life experiences as possible. This will have a positive impact on the choices they make throughout their lives and aid them in becoming positive and productive citizens.*

### **3) PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS**

*a) Street Reconstruction: Due to the efforts of my Administration, the City worked with the Commonwealth to reconstruct Lysle Boulevard and Walnut Street without the use of any of the City's limited funds. These infrastructure improvements combined with the long awaited completion of the fly-over ramp service RIDC Park should aid in the*

*development of the Lysle Boulevard and Walnut Street corridors and the mill site itself.*

#### **4) DEMOLITION**

*As the number of abandoned structures continues to grow within our City, the problem of blight and the negative effect it has on our ability to revitalize McKeesport grows each and every day. The City continues to eliminate blight in a concerted effort to revitalize our neighborhoods. Homes and structures are demolished in conjunction with other projects and infrastructure improvements so that when completed that particular area is ready for the future.*

*Most of the homes slated for demolition this year utilize CITF grant funds to revitalize the City's Cultural and Education Sector, which surrounds the new \$35 million state-of-the-art educational facility currently under construction by M.A.S.D. The CITF grant funds were initially denied for demolition purposes, but due to our stringent efforts we were able to secure these funds because it was not simply utilized to demolish structures in an ad hoc fashion, but was presented as concerted site preparation and revitalization for this area. The Cultural and Educational Sector not only encompasses the new educational facility, but also houses the McKeesport Carnegie Library, The McKeesport Little Theatre, and many homes with unique architectural value.*

*Due to the importance of eliminating blight in order to achieve revitalization, I have begun the process of creating a demolition capability within our own Public Works Department. This will decrease the cost of blight elimination significantly and give us a more potent weapon to revitalize our neighborhoods.*

## **5) *ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT***

a) *New Business Development:* *The RIDC Park Industrial Center of McKeesport continues to be the template for building a new McKeesport! I have worked closely with Allegheny County Chief Executive Rich Fitzgerald and District Attorney Stephen Zappala to renew efforts to bring the first community outreach courthouse to the mill site in McKeesport. This will attract professionals and people to the heart of our City and aid significantly in our efforts to revitalize the City. Negotiations have begun with businesses and developers to highlight the opportunities the courthouse will bring to this area.*

*In addition, we have witnessed the grand openings of Bottom Dollar, Dunkin Donuts and a new Lampert's Deli Express. In conjunction with the recent openings of Chick's Grill, a new Rite Aid and Christy Park Cones, we can see that a new McKeesport is upon us. In the coming year, we should witness a revitalized and revamped Eat-N-Park, a new Speedway Gas Station and the continued construction of a new shopping plaza along Walnut Street, which we continue to work diligently to push through the endless bureaucratic red tape.*

b) *Business Synergy:* *The reconstruction of Lysle Boulevard and Walnut Street, together with the completion of the fly-over ramp at RIDC Industrial Park and the beautification of our streets via the Elm Street and Hometown Street projects, compliment the City's previous efforts to attract new businesses to the Walnut Street and the Lysle Boulevard corridors. The recruitment of the first community outreach courthouse to be located in RIDC Park will be the anchor required for future development opportunities in the Industrial Park and the City as a whole.*

**6) HOUSING: "Build It and They Will Come"**

*McKeesport neighborhoods continue to be supported by new development and community reinvestment. My Administration will be focusing our efforts on working with the McKeesport Housing Corporation in conjunction with the McKeesport Housing Authority to evaluate the City's abandoned and tax delinquent properties. We will work together to determine if there are homes that can be renovated and made available to residents of the City through the Housing Authority's home ownership program.*

**CONCLUSION**

*We are making progress. McKeesport faces the same problems as most similar communities throughout the Commonwealth and the Country, which are increasing costs and ever decreasing revenues. My Administration has focused the City's resources and efforts on attacking the actual problems we face. We have addressed the problems of blight and violence, which hamper our ability to attract new businesses and residents. This plan is being implemented by continuing a concerted demolition program and reorganizing our efforts at code enforcement. I have established the Mayor's Select Committee on Crime and Violence to reach our youth and impact their decision making processes which will enable them to become productive citizens. These efforts to combat blight and violence will make it possible to attract the new businesses and residents we need to expand our tax base.*

*Businesses are taking advantage of the many programs and benefits we highlight that only our City can offer. McKeesport will soon host a new courthouse for Allegheny County. It will spawn economic activity; new construction, new private business, and make us*

*an on-going destination point for Public Safety for 33 Mon Valley communities. New school construction by the McKeesport Area School District to serve the five communities in the district is underway, and a commitment by UPMC to sustain their presence assures the hub of the Mon Valley will continue to be at the confluence of the Monongahela and Youghiogheny Rivers.*

*It is our job as the elected leaders of this great City to find creative ways to keep providing the services to the residents that make us attractive in the face of the constant challenges the current economic situation creates. We must manage employee costs and their attendant benefits in order to be able to make this future a reality. We must work together to build a better McKeesport. I, Council, my Administration, the employees and the residents of McKeesport; that is the TOGETHER I speak of when I implore you with the phrase, "Working Together for a Better McKeesport!"*

*This EFFORT ... This SPIRIT of cooperation ... is what it is going to take to see our City flourish once again.*

- Mayor Cherepko said once again he wants to take this opportunity to thank Council for working with him. He said he truly means when they talk about working together, that is what it is going to take. He said he looks forward to serving this great City in the upcoming year. He said that concludes his report.
- Mr. Segina said thank you Mayor. He said now they will have Council Reports.

**COUNCIL REPORTS:**

- Mr. Tedesco said he would like to comment on the budget that they will be voting on tonight. He said they had their budget meeting last week and it was nice to say that it was the first civil budget meeting that he has been involved with since he has been in office. He said it is a testament to everyone in this room. He said not that they agreed on everything but they did not get disagreeable. He said it was a pleasant experience. He said he thinks it is symbolic, because he was the runner-up to Mayor Cherepko, that he will be the one introducing this budget in his first year. He said he thinks that shows a lot for this City. He said hopefully they can continue down this path. He said that is all he has to report.
- Ms. Walker-Montgomery said she passed out a report for the Recreation Board for everyone earlier and she was just going to go over the events that they had last year and the events they are going to have this year. She said she and Dan Carr serve on the Recreation Board. She said in March they had the Easter Egg Hunt, trout fishing in April, bike and safety awareness in May, Good Neighbor Day and the Carnival in June, RibFest and Civil War Re-enactment in July, and volunteering at the Village for Kids at International Village in August. She said in October there was more detailed information and they had the Halloween Party/Parade and the budget for that was between \$250 - \$350 and they spent \$239.37. She said there were 55 children who attended the event and the Mayor was there and read a story. She said there was a costume contest where there were awards given out donated by Mama Pepinos. She said some pumpkins were donated by Sweeney Farms and ice cream cups were donated by Dairy Queen. She said if anyone wants any receipts or more information, they can talk to Jim Brown or Dan Carr. She said in November they had the Christmas Parade. She said



in December starting this Thursday is the Festival of Trees. She said the tree lighting ceremony will be tomorrow at 6:00 p.m. She said there is a note here that they are going to start requesting written reports from the person who chairs an event. She said all of these events are chaired by different people. She said they want to start getting reports from them. She said the packages say that she has been on this board since she has been on Council and this is one of the more active boards they have in the City, all volunteers who don't request any recognition or pay and give their time up willingly. She said she is also on the Library Board. She said there was a meeting December 4. She said they meet every two months. She said as far as the City goes, they are asking about getting some assistance with snow removal in their parking lot. She told them that she would talk to the Mayor about that.

- Mayor Cherepko said he will take care of that.
- Ms. Walker-Montgomery said she is also on the Downtown Business Authority and knows that Matt is working on setting up a meeting for that. She said a lot of times she sits up here and talks about accountability and requesting reports. She said she is going to practice what she preaches and will be giving reports about all these boards that she has been put on as a representative for the City. She said there are two other things she wants to say. She said in their packet they got some information about the Land Bank Act that Governor Corbett signed recently. She said this Act streamlines the process of returning delinquent property to tax rolls. She said she thinks this is something they really need to look at utilizing here in the City. She said it will really help them be able to sell some of the properties they have rather than demolishing them. She said they should look into that program.

- Mayor Cherepko said they have already had a meeting with West to West Coalition with regard to that. He said Bethany, Matt and he met with them. He said they are the ones that initiated the meeting. He said they are aware of it and plan on moving forward. He said he thinks they can do it in-house. He said that is what they decided because at the time they were trying to get them to run it through West to West. He said it is something they can do in-house. He said she is right, there is no question it would be a big help.
- Ms. Walker-Montgomery said she has been doing research ... and everyone knows that ... about the violence in the City as well as the bullying. She said a lot of the things she currently sees start on Facebook. She said she looked up some of the laws in Pennsylvania on bullying and cyber-bullying. She said there is no specific law in Pennsylvania for bullying and it is only based on what they can or cannot do in schools. She said what she wants to do is hopefully have the City create an ordinance against cyber-bullying. She said she would like to bring the Chief in on that discussion and Jason. She said she talked to Darryl about it yesterday as well as the Mayor. She said she thinks it will help since a lot of these start on Facebook. She said the other thing that is on the books now is basically for schools and on school grounds. She said Facebook is really not a school ground.
- Mayor Cherepko said absolutely they can sit down. He said when they are dealing with more of a legal issue, they need to sit down with the Chief and Jason and see what is enforceable and what is not.
- Mr. Dellapenna had nothing to report.
- Mr. Soles had nothing to report.

- Mr. Carr had nothing to report.
- Mr. McCall said he had just one thing. He said the Mayor had a rough year and he did age. He said he told the Mayor he was going to age in the first year. He said the budget they put together shocked him. He said as Mr. Tedesco said it was probably the first time in ten years that they didn't sit down and really battle it out. He said good job Mayor. He said he would also like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and a safe holiday too.
- Mr. Segina said his report is really in response to what Ms. Walker-Montgomery said regarding the Land Bank Act. He said he has been talking about the Land Bank Act, although he never referred to it by name, for a couple of years now. He said that he would like the Mayor to appoint someone as the point man on this particular committee. He said he would like to be in on the initial talks and he thinks they should be very aggressive on this because it pertains so much for the problems they have in this town with blighted homes and empty spots. He said perhaps they can get the Redevelopment Authority involved and maybe the Vacant Property Review Commission involved in this also and put their heads together to see what their plan of attack is. He said does Ms. Bauer have a copy of the Land Bank Act.
  - Ms. Bauer said yes.
  - Mr. Segina said can she make sure he gets a copy of that Act.
  - Ms. Bauer said yes.
  - Mayor Cherepko said Mr. Segina will be part of their meetings from this point on.
  - Mr. Segina said thank you. He said on behalf of City Council, he would like to wish everyone here a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

**CITIZENS IN THE AUDIENCE:****DARRELL KNOPP, PASTOR, McKEESPORT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, McKEESPORT, PA 15132.**

- Reverend Knopp said he is Pastor of McKeesport Presbyterian Church, at least for the next two days, and lives in North Huntingdon. He said he hopes this is appropriate. He said he thinks all of them should feel good about 2012 and the work they did. He said that is just a personal comment. He said all should feel good including the Mayor, his staff and City Council. He said they all know that there are times when there is a strain upon how they work together, but they did well. He said it is going to get even better. He said a lot of them believe that. He said thank you so much. He said in representation of the fact that he intends to continue to try to be active within the City, he doesn't have any credibility because he doesn't work here anymore and doesn't live here. He said he is only passionately concerned about the place that is in his heart. He said he is a member of the Mayor's Select Committee on Crime and Violence. He said that is who he represents here tonight. He said what would they say the words Respect, Dignity, Hope, and Love have in common. He said besides the fact that they all have a positive message to offer to whoever might want to embrace those words, it is their hope that they might initiate a new program in the City of McKeesport for 2013. He said initially they were going to call it the Message of the Month but they realized that a month pushes them too hard. He said on a quarterly basis they are going to bring a message before all of the City that is positive in nature beginning the first quarter in January with the word "Respect." He said he has his Respect button on tonight. He said the Mayor's Select Committee with the leadership of Annette, placed a tree at the Festival of Trees and it is decorated with all of these Respect buttons. He said they want to ask what would happen in the City of

McKeesport if they all could learn to respect one another at all times and in all places in how they engage one another, how they agree or disagree with each other. He said what would the effect of that be upon the youth especially, but also upon all of them and the image and well-being of our City. He said they hope to bring together government, municipal workers, education, social service agencies, businesses, churches, and especially the citizens of the City to promote the disciplines of Respect, Dignity, Hope and Love. He said at their next meeting, they hope to plan a kickoff event for early January somewhere in the City that will promote the positive message, that McKeesport message, which will be a quarterly message. He said they have a lot of ways that they are working to try and get the message out. He said they will hear more about that in January because he would like to come, or have someone from the Committee come, to the January meeting and request a resolution of support from Council for this project. He said he can answer any questions that anyone might have. He said he is giving them a short version of what it is that they are hoping to try to do within the City.

- Mayor Cherepko said that is pretty much what they are doing. He said they want to start from the top down. He said obviously the Mayor's office will support it because it is coming out of the Committee. He said they want Council to jump behind this. He said it is just another way to build morale within the community so that everyone pulls together in unity on a message of what they truly do believe. He said from an educator's standpoint, all too often ... and this is going to a lot of the problems and issues that face the City with the crime and violence ... the source is the youth and the long term solution is to reach the youth. He said this is just one of the ways this Committee decided to do it. He said the biggest issue he has seen as an educator for the past 12 years is when you teach a child something in school, the biggest thing is applying

it to their everyday lives. He said sometimes they think it is just something they were taught in school but when they leave school, it doesn't have to be part of their life. He said their goal is to get everyone involved, whether through signs, buttons, and banners for every entity possible so that when these kids leave school and go to the Boy's and Girl's Club and other places in the City, they will see the Respect and these other messages out there. He said they will walk into local businesses and see the same type of thing, a sign in the window. He said they will see yard signs at the churches. He said not only will they see it and it is not just something they learned at school, but he thinks that Reverend Knopp said something that is very key. He said it is something they should all live by, not just the children but also the adults. He said it is just another effort that they are trying to put forth that is not too costly, other than signs and support. He said they will get businesses involved and are thinking about an idea ... he doesn't want to give too many details because they will come with more ... if they remember after the first State Championship in 1994, all around the City they had signs that said City of Champions, Pride, Teamwork, Dedication and there was a business underneath. He said those businesses were the sponsors of the signs and the ones who paid for the signs. He said they are thinking about doing that same type of thing now where it will not cost the City money for the board itself. He said the businesses will get their name on the bottom of the sign but it will be "Respect," "Dignity," "Hope," and "Love." He said at the top it might just say "Working Together for a Better McKeesport" or "Respect the Message" or whatever it may be and at the bottom they will have the business name. He said these are just some things that he just wanted to elaborate on. He said again, Darrell is just so unbelievably passionate about what they are trying to do here. He said this was actually a sub-committee

of the Select Committee that came about with Darrell, Reverend Coleman and Reverend Yolanda Wright and a few others. He said they came out of the big committee to work on this. He said what they are going to do ... and he will put it on their Agenda, if it is okay with Council ... is some sort of Resolution stating Council's support for this community-wide campaign. He said this is what Pastor Knopp was asking. He said he let Pastor Knopp do it because it has been his work and his efforts that got them to this point and he does not want the credit for this. He said from day one, he decided he was going to surround himself with as many intelligent people as he could and that is what he has done. He said in January they will have something on the Agenda if that is okay with Council.

- Mr. Segina said they will concur on that.
- Reverend Knopp said he wanted to say two more things and then he will be seated. He said at the meetings with eight of them from across the City from various disciplines including support from the Mayor's office, it is hard to maintain order because people are getting so excited about this. He said one person jumps on another person's idea and it is getting hard to control. He said after the first meeting he wondered what did he get himself into because he was trying to slow his life down and that is not happening. He said the other thing he wanted to say and he is not trying to preach here, if it sounds like it then they will have to forgive him, if they pass a Resolution of Support then that means that it starts right here.
- Mayor Cherepko said that is the whole goal to let Council pick it up.
- Reverend Knopp said they hope to be back in January with a request for a Resolution.

- Mr. Segina said thank you for all of your records.

**BEATRICE LONGO, 200 WAINWRIGHT DRIVE,  
McKEESPORT, PA 15132.**

- Ms. Longo said that is going to be a tough act to follow. She said she was at the meeting last night and was surprised to find that they received copies of the Ordinances she drafted on the ATV and dirt bikes for the City. She said there is one Ordinance banning the use of the vehicles in the City and the other placing restrictions on them. She said she knows that Mr. Elash is working on an Ordinance as well and has been reviewing Ordinances from other areas. She said she did a lot of looking at what was going on in other areas to see what kinds of restrictions there were. She said she also looked at a lot of other laws and regulations before drafting those. She mentioned this to some of her neighbors who mentioned it to some of their friends and she universally has received a very negative response regarding her efforts. She said all of the people she talked to said why did you draft an Ordinance with restrictions. She said they told her ATVs, dirt bikes and recreational vehicles don't belong in a City and don't belong in a residential area. She said that will ultimately be up to Council to decide. She said because so many people made these comments, she understood they plan to have an ordinance ready for January's meeting. She said she would suggest that before January's meeting they have a public hearing so people can make comments. She said they should publicize that so they do hear from different areas of the City and know how people feel. She said she knows that Margaret O'Keson is here and she has spoken to people in Christy Park who are very opposed to this vehicle thing in the City as well as some people in Fawcett Plan, Grandview and in Haler Heights. She said she also wanted to clear up a few bits of misinformation tonight. She said it is not just about the lot in Haler Heights, but contrary to



what was reported in the Post Gazette, the lower lot where riding is planned, is not 5 acres, it is 1.85 acres according to the County Website. She said and it does about the back yard of many people in her area. She said there is also another lot a little over and there are other areas in the City. She said she had one member of Council tell her this is just about noise and they already have a noise ordinance, so they don't need this. She said as she started to do her research, it is not just about noise. She said it is about fumes, dust, air pollution, erosion and other environmental issues and it is also about property value in an area of the City where they are having a tough time maintaining their property values. She said there are a lot of vacancies up there and homes for sale. She said for people to say that it doesn't affect the value of their home, she would suggest they talk to Mr. Soles who is a realtor and see if he would like to show a home on a Sunday afternoon on either Wainwright or Arnold while people are riding dirt bikes. She said also an ordinance provides for penalty and fines, being able to confiscate vehicles which puts more teeth into it rather than a noise ordinance that may not be enforced. She said this is much more comprehensive. She said many of the ordinances she looked at were from rural areas. She said she can get Patty to make a list of the Ordinances she looked at so they can pull them off the Internet and look at them as well as the laws and some of the studies she looked at about the air pollution, exhaust fumes, etc. She said if a rural area needs to have restrictions, certainly a residential area would need stricter restrictions because they don't have all that wide open space. She said finally as stated in the Mayor's Budget Message, they are trying to attract new residents into the City, get rid of areas that are blighted and improve the City for everyone. She said someone said to her that this is just an ordinance for the affluent people who live in Halter Heights. She said first of all, she has been in pretty affluent areas in her life, like they all have, and she thinks Halter Heights is a middle-class working area. She said she also thinks that the people who live in Halter Heights

want for other people in the City, the same thing they want for themselves, peaceful and quiet surroundings. She said if the Ordinance has to be tabled for another month, as long as they have something in place by Spring, she thinks that would be acceptable to most people. She said with the holidays coming; trying to schedule a special meeting would be difficult. She said a Public Hearing before the next Council Meeting might work better for them and for people who want to make comments. She said thank you for your time.

- Mr. Segina said regarding the ordinance they discussed last evening; he thinks they would be rushed if they went ahead and tried to do something in December for January's meeting. He said they need at least a month's lapse time between the Public Hearing and the vote itself. He said they might go into March with that. He said they will take a look at it and see how they can progress with it.

### **AMEND THE AGENDA:**

- Mr. Elash said they need a motion to amend the Agenda to add new Bills #85 and #89, #90 and #91.

**MOTION:**      **Ms. Walker-Montgomery moved, seconded by Mr. Tedesco, "To amend the Agenda to add Bill #85, #89, #90, and #91."**

**RC-3**      YEAS:      McCALL, TEDESCO, CARR, SEGINA, SOLES,  
WALKER-MONTGOMERY, DELLAPENNA ..... 7

NAYS:      NONE..... 0

**TABLED BILLS:**

**RESOLUTION #2012 - BILL #78: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING A ZONING APPLICATION FROM SPEEDWAY, LLC FOR A CONDITIONAL USE IN A C-3 ZONING DISTRICT TO CONSTRUCT A GASOLINE SERVICE STATION/CONVENIENCE STORE AT 2325 FIFTH AVENUE, McKEESPORT, PA.**

**MOTION: Ms. Walker-Montgomery moved, seconded by Mr. Tedesco, "To remove Bill #78 from the Table."**

**RC-4** YEAS: McCALL, TEDESCO, CARR, SEGINA, SOLES, WALKER-MONTGOMERY, DELLAPENNA ..... 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

**MOTION: Mr. Carr moved, seconded by Ms. Walker-Montgomery, "To adopt Bill #78."**

**RC-5** YEAS: McCALL, CARR, SEGINA, SOLES, WALKER-MONTGOMERY..... 5

NAYS: TEDESCO, DELLAPENNA..... 2

**ORDINANCE #12-25 – BILL #83: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING RESOLUTION NO. 2012-7, ADOPTED ON NOVEMBER 14, 2012, BY THE BOARD OF THE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT WHICH AMENDS ITS ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION TO RESTATE, AMEND AND EXPAND ITS PURPOSE TO AUTHORIZE THE AUTHORITY TO BE SUBJECT TO AND PAY A REASONABLE FEE IMPOSED BY THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, THE CREATING MUNICIPALITY OF THE**

**AUTHORITY, TO DEFRAY THE COSTS FOR VARIOUS INCREASED AND EXTRAORDINARY PUBLIC SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE CITY OF McKEESPORT TO THE AUTHORITY AND TO DEFRAY THE FINANCIAL LOSS TO THE CITY OF McKEESPORT FOR LOST TAX REVENUES TO THE CITY OF McKEESPORT CAUSED BY THE AUTHORITY'S ACQUISITION OF PREVIOUSLY TAXABLE REAL ESTATE TO THE CITY BUT WHICH REAL ESTATE IS NOW TOTALLY EXEMPT FROM ALL TAX LEVIES AND TAX ASSESSMENTS OF THE CITY BECAUSE OF THE TAX EXEMPT STATUS OF THE AUTHORITY UNDER THE PREVAILING LAW OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA.**

**MOTION: Mr. Tedesco moved, seconded by Mr. Dellapenna, "To adopt Bill #83."**

**RC-6** YEAS: McCALL, TEDESCO, CARR, SOLES, WALKER-MONTGOMERY, DELLAPENNA..... 6

NAYS: SEGINA ..... 1

**ORDINANCE #12-26 – BILL #84: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE MAYOR'S RESERVE FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND OF THE CITY TO BE UTILIZED TO PAY EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEARS 2011 AND 2012.**

**MOTION: Mr. Tedesco moved, seconded by Mr. Dellapenna, "To adopt Bill #84."**

**RC-7** YEAS: McCALL, TEDESCO, CARR, SEGINA, SOLES, WALKER-MONTGOMERY, DELLAPENNA ..... 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

- 29 -

NAYS: NONE..... 0

**RESOLUTION #2012-53 – BILL #87: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF A TAX AND REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTE, SERIES 2013 WITH THE TERMS SET FORTH IN THE FOREGOING AND ATTACHED CERTIFICATE AND TRANSMITTAL; APPROVING A FORM OF NOTE; AUTHORIZING DESIGNATED OFFICERS TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER THE NOTE; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE FILING OF PROCEEDINGS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT AND SECURITY OF THE NOTE; MAKING CERTAIN FEDERAL INCOME TAX COVENANTS IN RESPECT OF THE NOTE; ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL OF FIRST COMMONWEALTH BANK FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE NOTE; AND REPEALING INCONSISTENT RESOLUTIONS.**

**MOTION:** Mr. Tedesco moved, seconded by Mr. Carr, "To adopt Bill #87."

**COMMENTS:**

- Mr. Segina said the Administration put out more than two bids on this and two local banks within the City of McKeesport bid on this and they are glad to see that one of them is getting the business.

**RC-10** YEAS: McCALL, TEDESCO, CARR, SEGINA, SOLES, WALKER-MONTGOMERY, DELLAPENNA ..... 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

**RESOLUTION #2012-54 – BILL #88: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICERS TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH FERREE**

**MOTION:** Mr. Tedesco moved, seconded by Ms. Walker-Montgomery, "To adopt Bill #88."

NAYS: NONE..... 0

**ORDINANCE #12-28 – BILL #89: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT PREVIOUSLY EFFECTIVE, AND AS AMENDED, REPEALED OR OTHERWISE REVISED BY ORDINANCE FROM TIME TO TIME, RELATIVE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF CITY EMPLOYEES PENSION, ANNUITY, INSURANCE AND BENEFIT FUND OR FUNDS, TO AMEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE PENSION PLAN OR PROGRAM APPLICABLE TO THE FIREFIGHTERS OF SAID CITY.**

**MOTION:** Mr. Tedesco moved, seconded by Mr. Dellapenna, "To adopt Bill #89."

**COMMENTS:**

- Mr. Segina said these three Bills are just amendments to the pension plans as is mandated by the State. He said is that right, Mr. Elash.
- Mr. Elash said yes, sir.
- Mr. Segina said they are routine and don't affect anything except the actuarial tables that are involved here.

**RC-12** YEAS: McCALL, TEDESCO, CARR, SEGINA, SOLES,  
WALKER-MONTGOMERY, DELLAPENNA ..... 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

**ORDINANCE #12-29 – BILL #90: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT PREVIOUSLY EFFECTIVE, AND AS AMENDED, REPEALED OR OTHERWISE REVISED BY ORDINANCE FROM TIME TO TIME, RELATIVE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF CITY EMPLOYEES PENSION, ANNUITY, INSURANCE AND BENEFIT FUND OR FUNDS, TO AMEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO THE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF SAID CITY.**

**MOTION: Mr. Tedesco moved, seconded by Mr. Soles, "To adopt Bill #90."**

**RC-13** YEAS: McCALL, TEDESCO, CARR, SEGINA, SOLES,  
WALKER-MONTGOMERY, DELLAPENNA ..... 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

**ORDINANCE #12-30 – BILL #91: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, PREVIOUSLY EFFECTIVE, AND AS AMENDED, REPEALED OR OTHERWISE REVISED BY ORDINANCE FROM TIME TO TIME, RELATIVE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF CITY EMPLOYEES PENSION, ANNUITY, INSURANCE AND BENEFIT FUND OR FUNDS, TO AMEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE COMBINED PENSION PLAN OF SAID**



**MOTION:** Mr. Tedesco moved, seconded by Ms. Walker-Montgomery, "To adopt Bill #91."

- Mr. Segina said before they move on to the Controller's Report, he doesn't know if they noticed he almost went to the Controller's Report without mentioning the Ordinances that they just approved. He said he got a look from Ms. Williams. He said he doesn't know if they know that she controls them. He said not their votes but their everyday lives. He said she keeps them in line and does a good job doing it. He said maybe that is why they are so effective here. He said thank you for her diligence in that.

Mr. Malinchak said he recommends to Council the approval of bills totaling \$32,048.44.

**RC-15** YEAS: McCALL, TEDESCO, CARR, SEGINA, SOLES,  
WALKER-MONTGOMERY, DELLAPENNA ..... 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

**ADJOURNMENT:**

President of Council Darryl Segina adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Williams  
City Clerk and Clerk of Council

APPROVED:

Darryl Segina  
President of Council

daw